
ERRORS IN USING PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE AND TIME

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Abstract

The use prepositions of place and time in the sentence has been learned at senior high school Hoya Sejahtera. Based on the preliminary study that had been conducted by researcher some of students made errors in using prepositions of place and time. The objectives of this research were to find out the students' errors in using prepositions of place and time and the reasons causes the errors. This research was designed by used qualitative method. The theory of Miles et al (2014): data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing conclusion/verifying was used to analyzed the data. The data of this research were collected through documentation and interview. The result of the analysis showed that there were 17 students made error in the use of in, on, at as prepositions of place and time. The errors of the students were caused by lack of knowledge, practice, media of teaching and information. In conclusion, the lack understanding in the use at, on and in as prepositions of place and time will be cause errors. Therefore, it is Suggested that to be familiar in using those prepositions it is needed to create and interesting method in teaching them.

Key Words: *errors; prepositions; grammar*

Abstrak

Penggunaan preposisi tempat dan waktu dalam kalimat telah dipelajari di SMA Hoya Sejahtera. Berdasarkan studi pendahuluan yang telah dilakukan peneliti beberapa siswa melakukan kesalahan dalam penggunaan kata depan tempat dan waktu. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui kesalahan siswa dalam menggunakan kata depan tempat dan waktu serta penyebab kesalahan tersebut. Penelitian ini dirancang dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif. Teori Miles et al (2014): kondensasi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan kesimpulan/verifikasi digunakan untuk menganalisis data. Data penelitian ini dikumpulkan melalui dokumentasi dan wawancara. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 17 siswa yang melakukan kesalahan penggunaan in, on, at sebagai preposisi tempat dan waktu. Kesalahan siswa disebabkan oleh kurangnya pengetahuan, praktik, media pengajaran dan informasi. Kesimpulannya, kurangnya pemahaman dalam penggunaan pada, pada, dan dalam sebagai preposisi tempat dan waktu akan menimbulkan kesalahan. Oleh karena itu, disarankan agar terbiasa menggunakan preposisi tersebut perlu diciptakan dan metode yang menarik dalam mengajarkannya.

Kata kunci: *preposisi; preposisi; tata bahasa*

A. Introduction

English grammar is a description of
use of the English language by good

speakers and good writers of the present day. Grammar is a description of the structure of a language and the way in which linguistic unit such as words and phrases are combined to produce sentences in the language. Herring (2016:11) states that grammar refers to the way words are used, classified, and structured together to form coherent written or spoken communication.

In addition, grammar is one of the language components taught to every language learner. The grammar of a language is an analysis of the various functions performed by words of the language, as they are used by native speakers and writers Ansell (2000:25)

Furthermore, Grammar refers to the study of the language rules, it is kind of regularity of sound structures that nobody could learn language without grammar. It is supported by Dykes, (2007:5) stated that we all use grammar from the time that we can speak in intelligible sentences, because grammar deals 'the abstract system of rules in term of which a person's mastery of a native language can be explained.

In line with the explanation above, grammar is an important to produce a language because without getting grammar the learners cannot use the language well. It means, grammar is an important aspect to support learners to write and speak correctly.

In addition, grammar is defined as words that put together to make correct sentences it does not only affect how the units of words are combined in order to make correct sentences but also affects their meaning. So, the correct use grammar keeps someone from being misunderstood while expressing thoughts and ideas

Furthermore, in English sentence grammar there are types of words that will compose perfect sentence namely: Noun,

Pronoun, Verb, Adjective, Adverb, Conjunctions, Interjection, Preposition. Noun means a word that names something, such as a person, place, thing, or idea. Pronoun means a word that is used instead of a noun or noun phrase. Verb means words that describe an action or talk about something that happens. Adjective means describes or modifies noun and pronoun in a sentence. Adverb means a part of speech that provides greater description to a verb, adjective or another adverb. Conjunction means a word that is used to connect words, phrases, and clauses. Interjection means a word or phrase that is grammatically independent from the words around it, and mainly expresses feeling rather than meaning. Preposition is a word or a group of word used before noun and pronoun. Grammar has become a common problem in learning English.

Preposition is one type of word that always used that to show a relationship between items in a sentence. According to Seaton, A. And Mew, H.Y. (2007:132) "A preposition is a word that connects one thing with another, showing how they are related". Moreover, Baskervill, M., & Sewel (2004) said that the preposition is a word joined to a noun or its equivalent to make up a qualifying or an adverbial phrase and to show the relation between its object and the word modified.

In addition, According to Collins (2017:6.74) "A preposition is a word that allows you to say more about a thing or an action, because you can choose any appropriate noun after as its object". Furthermore, prepositions are a word or group of words that show the relation between the object and some other word in the sentence (Page, 2011).

Furthermore, Prepositions are used to connect nouns, pronouns, or phrases (called the object of the preposition) to other words within a sentence. According to (Herring, 2016) "Prepositions are used to express the relationship of a noun or pronoun (or another grammatical element functioning as a noun) to the rest of the sentence". Prepositions are often called the biggest small words in English because although they are generally short words but, they are very important to the meaning of the sentences.

Based on the definitions above, researcher concluded that a preposition is a word which is used to show the way in which other words are connected. Prepositions are a word or group of word to show the relationship between a noun or pronoun. Means that, a preposition is a word that connects one thing with another, showing how they are related.

According to Geddes and Grosset (2014) there are two types of prepositions, simple preposition and complex prepositions follows;

a. Simple Prepositions

Simple prepositions are often very short words, such as at, by, in, off, on, to, and up, but also include such words as among, before, behind, during and through.

a. Complex Prepositions

Complex prepositions consist of two or three words. These include ahead of, because of, instead of, on account of, by means of and on behalf of.

Moreover, preposition is classified into 6 types Izzan, Ahmad (2008:71-73) they are: Simple preposition, Double preposition, Compound preposition, Participial preposition, Phrase preposition/preposition phrase, and disguised preposition.

a. Simple Preposition

Only used simple preposition are: after, at, by, for, from, of, over, on, in, through, to, off, until, under, up, with, etc..

b. Double Preposition

The most commonly used double preposition are: into, onto, from under, from among, from off, from within, over again, etc

c. Compound Preposition

A compound preposition a preposition which is formed from noun, adjective, or adverb and it is combined with prepositions "be (by) or "a" (on).

d. Participial Preposition

The most commonly used participial are: during, notwithstanding, past expect, save, considering, touching, concerning, regarding, and owing to.

e. Phrase Preposition/Preposition Phrase

The most commonly used prepositional phrase/ phrase prepositions

f. Disguised Preposition

A disguised preposition is shown in such words

In addition, According to Herring (2016:492) prepositions can be broadly divided into eight categories: time, place, direction or movement, agency, instrument or device, reason or purpose, connection, and origin.

a. Preposition of Time

A preposition of time describes when or for how long something occurred or will occur. The three most common preposition of time are at, in, and on. Each preposition of time refers to a different increment of or point in time, as shown belows:

a) At

We use at to state specific times of appointment, meetings, classes, and so on.

b) In

Use in to talk about months, years, and specific times of day and seasons.

c) On

Use on to talk about specific days, such as days of week, holidays, and dates.

b. Prepositions of Place

A preposition of place describes where something is located in reference to something else, or where something occurred or will occur. Like prepositions of time, the most common prepositions of place are also at, in, and on. The usages of these and other prepositions of place are explained below:

a) At

At is usually to state something or someone is at a specific place. In generally, we use at for a point; at the corner, at the bus stop, at the station, at the top of page, at the end of the road or Specific points or locations.

b) In

In is usually used to state that someone or something is in (the boundaries can be physical or virtual place). In general we use in for enclosed spaces.

c) On

On, is usually used to state someone or something is on top of a surface. In general on for a surface; on the wall on the door, on the cover, a street, a desk.

c. Direction or Movement

A preposition of direction or movement describes how, where, or in what way something moves. The following table highlights the most common prepositions of direction and

movement, as well as their different usages:

d. Prepositions of Agency

A preposition of agency describes a person or a thing that has caused or is causing something to occur. Sentences containing prepositions of agency are usually written in the passive voice and employ the prepositions by (for people) and with (for things).

e. Prepositions of Instrument or Device

A preposition of instrument or device is used when describing certain technologies, machines, or devices. These prepositions are by, with, and on. Typically, by refers to methods of transportation, whereas with and on describe the use of machines and other devices.

f. Prepositions of Reason or Purpose

A preposition of reason or purpose describes why something has occurred or will occur. Common prepositions of reason or purpose include for, through, because of, on account of, and from.

g. Prepositions of Connection

A preposition of connection describes possession, relationships, or accompaniment. Preposition of connection is used for possession, to for relationships between people or things, and with for accompaniment.

h. Preposition of Origin

When we describe a person or thing's origin (such as nationality, hometown/state, ethnicity, the place where something was built or designed, etc.), we typically use the preposition from (and, to a lesser degree, of).

The use of prepositions in the sentence has been learned at senior high school Hoya Sejahtera. As we know the prepositions is important one in the

sentences. But, based on the information: the researchers' interviewed on September 18th2021 with the English teacher at tenth grade. The teacher explained that most of the students were not able to use prepositions of place and time. Means that, students are confused to distinguish which is the preposition will be used in the sentences.

Based on the preliminary study that had been already been conducted by researcher some of students make errors in using prepositions of place and time in a worksheet. There are still many students' difficulties in choosing which is preposition to use especially preposition of place (in, on, and at) and preposition of time (in, on, and at). The students are not able to make sentences correctly. Then, the students made mistakes repeatedly because they feel difficult to distinguish and it is what we called as an error. Error it is happening when learners made mistakes by consistently. It is supposed by Richards C. J (1974:202)states errors is the show a consistent system, are internally principled and free from arbitrariness. Furthermore, According to Richards C. J (1973), there are two causes of errors, they are 1) inter language errors (a cause of errors by interference of the learners' L1 or mother tongue), and 2) intra-lingual and developmental errors (reflect the learners' competence at a particular stage, and illustrate some of the general characteristics of language acquisition). The later is caused by the complexity of the target language itself that indicates that the students have not mastered the language yet.

Based on the case above, the purpose of this research is to find out the students' error in using preposition of place and time and students reasons of getting error in the use prepositions of place and time.

B. Research Method

In line with the purpose of this research, that is to find out the students' error in using preposition of place and time and students reasons of getting error in the use prepositions of place and time at tenth grade of SMA Swasta Hoya Sejahtera. This research is designed by used qualitative research. According to Walliman (2011:131) qualitative research is practiced in many disciplines, so a range of data collection methods has been devised to cater for the varied requirements of the different subjects, such as: qualitative interviewing, focus groups, participants, discourse and conversation analysis and analysis of texts and documents. This method is used to describe the data collected.

Technique of the data collection deals how to collect the data. The researcher used documentation and interview as technique for collecting the data. There were steps to collecting the data:

1. Documentation is the students' worksheet paper collected from English teacher with the aim of finding out their errors in use prepositions of place and time.
2. After the researcher collects the data, the researcher was interviewed the students to find out the reasons why they have difficulty in using prepositions of place and time.

The data analysis researcher used by theory of Miles et al. (2014:31-32), said that data analysis is seen as consists of three concurrent flows of activity: (1) data condensation,(2) data display, and (3) drawing conclusion and verification.

1. Data Condensation

Data condensation refers to the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and

transforming the data that appear in the full corpus of written up fields, document and interview and other empirical materials.

In this step the researcher was organize data collected from the document and interview. Then, the researcher was classified each student errors in use prepositions of place and time. In selecting the data, the researcher tries to find the students' errors in use prepositions of place and time based on the theory of Herring(2016:492). Focusing refers to the consistency of analysis process carry out on the data. In this step, the data has been simplified to be easily understood. In the end, the researcher was explained and wrote the correct answer that has been based on rules in using prepositions. It aims at knowing the student's errors in using the preposition of place and time.

2. Data Display

Generally, a display is an organized compressed assembly of information that allows drawing and action. Looking at the data display helps us to understand what is happening and to do something-either further or take action based on that understanding. The display of the data in conducting this research is carried out through presenting the data in the table.

3. Drawing Conclusion and Verifying

The third stream of analysis activity is conclusion drawing and verification. From the star of the data collection, the qualitative analyze interprets what things means by noting patterns, explanations, flows, and prepositions. The conclusions are also verified as the analyze proceeds. The conclusion drawing is star after the data

collected by making temporary conclusion. In other word, it can be said that the conclusion is analyze continuously and verified the validity to get the perfect conclusion. After analyzing all the worthy data from data condensation and data display, conclusions from the field notes, are drawn and some suggestions are given.

C. Research Finding And Discussion

In this finding the researcher presented the research result on the data analysis, research finding and discussion of the finding. The researcher especially analyzed types of errors about preposition in students' worksheet at SMA Swasta Hoya Sejahtera and find out the students' reasons why they got errors. After analyzing the data, from 24 students the researcher found the result. There were 17 students made errors of using prepositions of place and time it happened in common use (on, in, at). Researcher collected the primary data from the English teacher at tenth grade and interview result.

The data was analyzed based on the formulations of the research: a) What are the students' error in using prepositions of place and time? b) Why do student get error in using prepositions of place and time?

Table.1

Student errors based on the results of the analyzed the data as follows:

Types of Error	Data	The correct of sentences
The error in the use preposition of place	I'm	I'm
	a	a
	sixteen-year-old	sixteen-year-old
	school	school
	student	student
	from Johor	from Johor
	Bahruat	Bahruin

	Malaysia. Martin lives on Hoyafana Street. It was very interesting to read your letter about yourself in your hometown.	Malaysia. Martin lives at Hoyafana Street. I was very interesting to read your letter about yourself at your hometown.	Preposition " at " is one of preposition of place which is used to state something or someone at a specific place. Researcher has found that students made error in use of preposition " at ". It can be seen in appendix 1 for example: "I'm a sixteen-year-old school student from Johor Bahru at Malaysia". The use of preposition " at " in the sentence is not correct. It should be " in " because " at " is used to state aspecific place. In addition, preposition on is usually used to state someone or something is on top of a surface. In general on for a surface; on the wall on the door, on the cover, a street, a desk and so on. Researcher has found that students made error in use of preposition " on ". Forexample: "Martin lives on Hoyafana Street". The use of preposition " on " in the sentence is not correct. It should be " at " because in general on for a surface. Furthermore, preposition " in " is usually used to state that someone or something is in (the boundaries can be physical or virtual place). In general we use in for enclosed spaces. Researcher has found that students made error in use of preposition " in ". For example: "It was very interesting to read your letter about yourself in your hometown". The use of preposition " in " in the sentence is not correct. It should be " at " because in general we use " in " for enclosed spaces.
	I like history very much; it helps me know morehow different countries existed at the past.	I like history very much; it helps me know more how different countries existed in the past.	
	The error on the use of on as preposition of time	My brother does not go to work on Sunday. My English class begins at 10:30 My English class begins on 10:30	

Source: Documentation of the Data at Tenth Grade of SMA Swasta Hoya Sejahtera.

Error in Use Preposition of Place

Preposition of place is a preposition which is used to refer to a place where something or someone located. There are three types preposition that most common use: at, in, and on.

The words in, on and at can be used as preposition of time. A preposition of time is preposition that shows when something happens.

Preposition "**at**" is used to state specific times of appointment, meetings, classes, and so on. Researcher has found that students made error in use preposition "**at**". For example: "I like history very much; it helps me know more how different

countries existed **at** the past". The use of preposition "**at**" in the sentence is not correct. It should be "**in**" because "**at**" is used to state specific times.

In addition, use "**in**" to talk about months, years, and specific times of day and seasons. The same case in use of preposition "**in**" also happened in sentence it has found in students' worksheet. It can be seen on appendix 1 "My brother does not go to work **in** Sunday". The use of preposition "**in**" in the sentence is not correct. It should be "**on**" because it is talking about the day.

Furthermore, use "**on**" to talk about specific days, such as days of week, holidays, dates, and so on. Researcher has found that students made error in use preposition "**on**" For example: "My English class begins **on** 10:30". The use of preposition "**on**" in the sentence is not correct. It should be "**at**" because "**on**" talks about specific days, such as days of week, holidays, and dates.

The data above showed that there are many errors made by students in using prepositions in, on, at as prepositions of place and time. The errors happened in placing the prepositions.

Reasons for the Students Errors

After the researcher collected the data, then classified the errors. Then, researcher interview students and teacher in order to get the reasons why they made errors in using preposition of place and time. The results of interview that conducted by researcher as follows:

- a. Many of students think that English is a difficult lesson.

In this case happened because the way to write different how to says and different grammatical.

- b. Most of students lack of knowledge about the prepositions.

In this case happened because students were not pay attention when the English teacher explain of the the material.

- c. The students did not understand about preposition.

This happened because students did not ask the teacher when they did not understand.

- d. The students made errors because they feel difficult to placement of the use of prepositions of place and time (in, on, and at) correctly.

- e. The students did not know when the preposition in, on and at will be used.

- f. Students low enthusiasm

Students low enthusiasm because students considered that English is something difficult subject.

- g. Students low practice

This happened because the teacher and students were not creative in teaching and learning process.

- h. The media of teaching were not enough.
- i. Lack of information.

This happened because students depend of English teacher and do not find knowledge from the other sources such as; internet, books article, journal and so on.

Furthermore, the data acquired as demonstrated in the previous page were discussed. In this case, the researcher stated that the finding which is gathered was the research results about the students' errors on the use prepositions of place and time (in, on, and at). The errors that conducted by student tenth grade of SMA Swasta Hoya Sejahtera in use preposition of place and time first use of place the example: "I'm a sixteen-year-old school student from Johor Bahruat Malaysia". The correctly

used "I am a sixteen-year-old school student from Johor Bahru in Malaysia".

Second preposition of time example: "I like history very much; it helps me know more how different countries existed **at** the past". Correctly used "I like history very much; it helps me know more how different countries existed **in** the past". "My brother does not go to work **in** Sunday".

Based explanation above researcher concluded that, the errors of preposition of place there are three kinds in, at and errors of preposition of time there are three kinds in, on, and at.

According to Herring (2016:492) "prepositions can be very difficult to navigate because many of them are used to express multiple kinds of relationships, and it's easy to use one in the wrong context". In this case, errors happened on the usage of preposition of place "**at**" while it should be "**in**". In the second case errors happened on the usage of preposition of time "**on**" while it should be "**in**".

Based on the interview result by the students, the common answer that show the reasons why the students still made error on using preposition are: they are do not understand and do not know the meaning of the types of preposition and they feel difficult to distinguish which is preposition appropriate.

D. Conclusion

A preposition is a word that connects one thing with another, showing how they are related. The words in, on, and at can be used as prepositions of time and place. The three of words (in, on, at) have a resemblance in use. Because the resemblance it makes students confused in using each correct preposition in a sentence. Because of that, it happen the errors when the learners use the

preposition. As we know from the explanation previously we can see there are many of students make the error in the use prepositions of place and time.

Furthermore, to solve the problem when choosing the appropriate preposition in a sentence, must consider their various categories as well as what the prepositions is going to modify and then, students should be more practice and to do deeper to make them more understand and comprehend about how to use the preposition appropriate in the sentence.

Considering the error, it is suggested to English teachers to creative in teaching method to teaching those prepositions and for English teacher not only teach but also it is better to give the clear explanations about the using prepositions by do oral and written, in order to make the students understand more. Then, to get success in learning English there need of motivation, self-interest, awareness and etc. For the students can make English as their pleasure in learning process. They should be motivated itself and one another to learn English well especially in the using prepositions and make it as habit to learn and learn more and create knowledge about to use prepositions of place and time.

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